

Park and Recreation

Mission Statement

The Park and Recreation Department will provide innovative recreational experiences and social enrichment opportunities, and continue to address the changing needs for people of all ages and cultures, in a variety of safe and attractive parks, landscapes, and facilities.

Council Priorities Addressed

- Improving Neighborhood Livability
- Public Safety
- Economic Development

Major 2001/02 Priorities

- Establish consultant services for design work for 15 playground refurbishment projects.
- Develop and implement a renovation program for over-utilized turf areas.
- Install an additional 40 concrete picnic tables and slabs in various locations of the City.
- Increase the annual street tree trimming cycle from 15,000 to 25,000 street trees.
- Remove and replace 275 diseased or undesirable street trees.
- Implement Safe Parks program.
- Improve the Aquatics Program by expanding programming to include Recreation Swim Teams at 5 pools and implementing more rigid criteria and testing measurements for Aquatics personnel.
- Develop a mobile recreation program for neighborhood parks and identified neighborhoods.
- Complete renovation of Dales Center in historic White Park, which will include a new senior activity room, Park and Recreation Department administrative offices, and Police Department Store Front.

Programs and Program Goals

FY 2001/02

Administration: To provide policy direction, administrative support and fiscal management to enable the Department to achieve program outcomes while complying with federal, state, local, and other requirements.

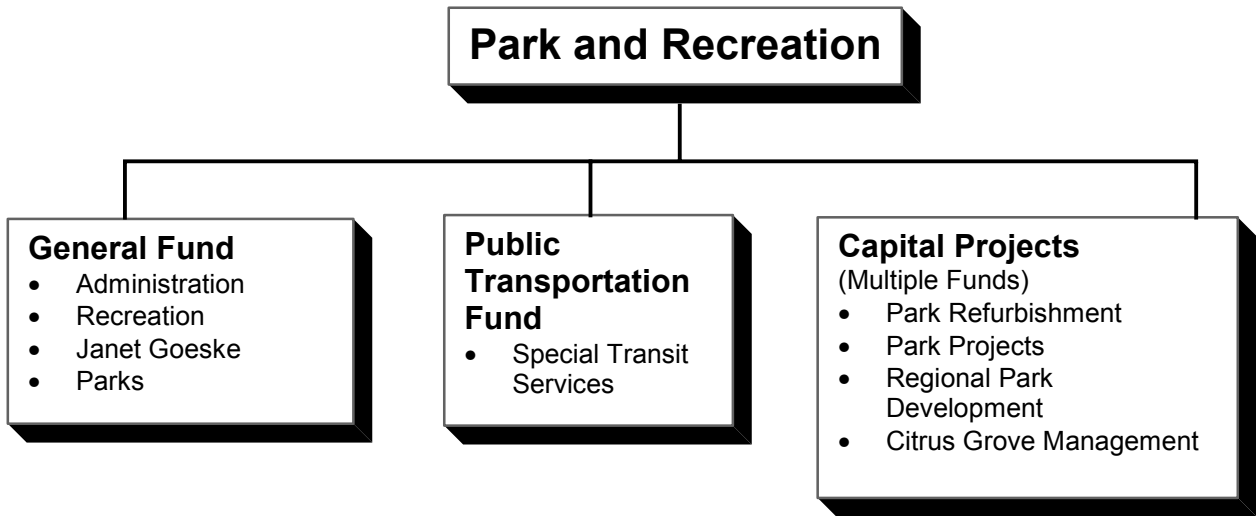
Recreation: To provide social, recreational and educational programs for people of all ages, cultures and ability in order that they may continue to enrich their lives, improve self-pride, and develop physical skills, in an environment conducive to fun and fulfillment.

Parks: To provide a variety of safe, attractive parks, landscapes and facilities for the general public, in order to facilitate the provision of quality recreation and leisure services, and to protect open space and the urban forest in the City of Riverside.

Planning and Design: To provide park planning, design and construction contract administration, project construction inspection, review of all public landscapes, and inspection for all public right-of-way landscape development in order to provide safe and attractive parks, landscapes and facilities.

Special Transportation: To provide reliable, affordable and safe transportation for senior and handicapped passengers in order that they may retain their mobility and independence.

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Description of the Service

The Park and Recreation Department is comprised of approximately 365 full-time, part-time and seasonal employees in Administration, Recreation, Special Transportation, Parks, and Planning & Design programs.

In addition to fiscal and personnel management, the Administration Division is responsible for managing 17 maintenance contracts totaling approximately \$1.5 million, ranging from a security and fire alarm contract of \$1,000, to a landscape maintenance contract of \$328,000. In addition, Administration is responsible for oversight of the Special Transportation program, which transports over 12,000 senior and handicapped passengers per month, and has a fleet of 20 minivans.

The Recreation Division provides a full complement of recreational programs and contract classes. The Aquatics program offers recreational swimming and lessons at 9 City and High School pools. In addition, 236 teams and over 2,700 players compete in the Youth Sports program, and the Adult Sports program boasts over 500 teams with over 7,000 players. Eight community centers and 1 senior center offer a fun and safe environment for a host of activities for both youth and adults. Over 40 contract classes specifically designed for youth, and over 25 adult contract classes occur at these centers. However, facilities at U.C.R., the Riverside Sports Complex and various local business locations are utilized as well. The Recreation Division has partnered with Riverside and Alvord Unified School Districts to provide the recreational component for the PRIME Time After School program at 9 school sites, with a potential of expanding to 36 sites and 2,700 students.

The Parks Division is responsible for the maintenance of parks, facilities, street trees and sportsfields. The parks system is comprised of 51 parks totaling 2,500 acres, and over 300 linear miles of medians and reverse frontages. Riverside’s urban forest is home to over 100,000 street trees, and over 30,000 park trees. The Parks Division provides sportsfield preparation for 915 established youth teams in Riverside, involving approximately 12,000 youth.

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Capital Projects

The Planning and Design program, responsible for the planning, design and construction of an assortment of capital improvement projects, recently completed projects totaling \$4.6 million. Currently underway are capital improvement projects with a total valuation of over \$15 million. Included in projects underway is the renovation of the historic White Park, Riverside's oldest, which was developed in 1889. In addition, approximately \$7 million will be spent to refurbish aging parks and facilities.

Recent Accomplishments

- Completed construction of tot lot at Lincoln Park, official opening held in September 2000.
- Completed construction of Orange Terrace Community Park, official opening held in November 2000.
- Completed construction of Villegas Park pool, official opening held in June 2000.
- Increased ratings of citizen satisfaction with park and recreation programs by 10%.
- Completed Reid Park Playground in December 2000.
- Completed first year of PRIME Time After School Program at 9 middle schools.
- Received approval and funding for the creation of a year-round Aquatics Program.
- Reduced the street tree trimming cycle from 12 to 6 years.
- Continued to upgrade landscape maintenance contract specifications for reverse frontages, medians and neighborhood parks.
- Received approval for the addition of 2 full-time Park Planners to meet the increased development demand.

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